

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 135.143, the Department of Public Health hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 113, “Public Health Response Teams,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The rules in Chapter 113 describe how the Division of Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response, Center for Disaster Operations and Response, establishes, registers, and approves public health response teams to supplement and support disrupted or overburdened local medical and public health personnel, hospitals, and resources in the event of a disaster or threatened disaster or other incident as defined in Iowa Code section 135.143. The current language defines priorities and provides guidance related to specific teams. The number and scope of the teams have been distinctly defined since Chapter 113 was originally adopted. The term “public health response team” currently includes disaster medical assistance teams, an environmental health response team, a logistical support response team, and an Iowa mortuary operational response team. The epidemiological response team is no longer supported. These amendments broaden the priorities and guidance to include all the teams, rather than have language limited to specific guidance for individual teams.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on these amendments on or before December 18, 2012. Written materials should be directed to Rebecca Curtiss, Department of Public Health, 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075; fax (515)242-6335; e-mail rebecca.curtiss@idph.iowa.gov.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found. These amendments do not change the scope of work or duties of the response teams.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 135.143.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Rescind the definitions of “Epidemiology response team,” “Physician,” “Registered nurse” and “Sponsor agency” in rule **641—113.1(135)**.

ITEM 2. Adopt the following **new** definitions of “Iowa mortuary operational response team” and “Logistical support response team” in rule **641—113.1(135)**:

“Iowa mortuary operational response team” or “IMORT” means a public health response team that is sponsored and approved by the department to provide decedent care in the event of a mass fatality disaster or threatened disaster or other incident defined in Iowa Code section 135.143.

“Logistical support response team” or “LSRT” means a public health response team that is sponsored and approved by the department to provide logistical support and assistance in the event of a disaster or threatened disaster or other incident defined in Iowa Code section 135.143.

ITEM 3. Amend rule **641—113.1(135)**, definitions of “Public health response team” and “Public health response team member,” as follows:

“Public health response team” or “PHRT” means a team of professionals, including licensed health care providers, nonmedical professionals skilled and trained in disaster or emergency response, and public health practitioners, that is sponsored by the department, a hospital or other entity and approved by the department to provide assistance in the event of a disaster or threatened disaster or other incident defined in Iowa Code section 135.143. “Public health response team” shall include disaster medical assistance teams, an environmental health response ~~teams team~~, ~~epidemiology response teams~~,

a logistical support response team, the Iowa mortuary operational response team and other teams established and approved upon written order of the director; to supplement and support disrupted or overburdened local medical and public health personnel, hospitals, and resources.

“Public health response team member,” “DMAT member,” “EHRT member,” or “EpiRT PHRT member” means an individual who has registered with the department and has received approval from the department to serve on a public health response team.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 113.2(1), introductory paragraph, as follows:

113.2(1) The department, through the division of acute disease prevention and emergency response, center for disaster operations and response, shall establish, register, and approve public health response teams, ~~including at a minimum five DMATs and one EHRT,~~ to supplement and support disrupted or overburdened local medical and public health personnel, hospitals, and resources in the event of a disaster or threatened disaster or other incident as defined in Iowa Code section 135.143. The primary purpose of the public health response teams is to respond to Iowa incidents and to provide support for Iowa medical and public health personnel, hospitals, and resources. A public health response team may also be requested to respond to an out-of-state disaster or emergency pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact at Iowa Code section 29C.21.

ITEM 5. Amend subrule 113.2(2) as follows:

113.2(2) ~~DMAT and EHRT PHRTs~~ shall be established, registered and approved pursuant to this chapter. ~~Other~~ Additional PHRTs may be established, registered and approved as necessary upon written order of the director.

ITEM 6. Amend rule 641—113.5(135) as follows:

641—113.5(135) ~~Disaster medical assistance~~ Public health response team.

113.5(1) *General requirements.*

a. An entity may make application to the department to be a sponsor agency of a ~~DMAT~~ PHRT pursuant to subrule 113.3(1). An individual may make application to the department to be a member of a ~~DMAT~~ PHRT pursuant to subrule 113.4(1).

b. The department, in conjunction with the sponsor agencies, shall establish the ~~DMAT operational procedures~~ Iowa Volunteer Public Health Response Team Operational Procedures Manual. The operational procedures shall be in writing and shall be provided to each ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member. All ~~DMAT~~ PHRT members and sponsor agencies shall follow the ~~DMAT~~ PHRT operational procedures as established by the department. The Iowa ~~DMAT~~ Volunteer Public Health Response Team Operational Procedures Manual is available through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Center for Disaster Operations and Response, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

c. If the department notifies a ~~DMAT~~, ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member, or sponsor agency of a violation of Iowa Code section 135.143, this chapter, or an operational procedure, the ~~DMAT~~, ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member, or sponsor agency shall correct the deficiency or violation identified by the department within a time frame determined by the department. If a ~~DMAT~~, ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member, or sponsor agency fails to correct a deficiency or violation within the time frame identified by the department, or if the deficiency or violation constitutes an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the department may initiate action to revoke approval pursuant to subrule 113.3(2) or 113.4(2).

113.5(2) *Team composition.*

a. A ~~DMAT~~ PHRT shall be comprised of ~~a minimum of 35~~ health care professionals and administrative personnel as identified in the Iowa ~~DMAT~~ Volunteer Public Health Response Team Operational Procedures Manual.

b. The sponsor agency for each team shall be responsible for maintaining adequate staffing.

113.5(3) *Licensure and educational requirements.*

a. Each ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member shall hold and maintain an active unrestricted license, registration, or certification to practice in Iowa in the member’s respective medical or health care profession.

b. Each ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member shall complete ~~the following courses or shall complete other substantially similar courses approved by the department:~~ required training as listed in the Iowa

Volunteer Public Health Response Team Operational Procedures Manual, including training specified in respective team annexes.

- ~~(1) Incident command structure;~~
- ~~(2) Weapons of mass destruction awareness; and~~
- ~~(3) Hazardous materials awareness or operations.~~

c. In addition to the requirements in paragraph 113.5(3) “b,” the ~~DMAT’s~~ PHRT leadership shall complete training ~~in~~ as specified in the team annex to the Iowa Volunteer Public Health Response Team Operational Procedures Manual.

- ~~(1) Hospital emergency incident command structure; and~~
- ~~(2) Risk communication.~~

d. A sponsor agency shall provide specific position training to ~~DMAT~~ PHRT members as determined to be necessary by the sponsor agency and as approved by the department.

e. A sponsor agency, in conjunction with the department, shall develop and implement training exercises to test the team’s notification process, deployment readiness, and response capabilities.

f. The sponsor agency shall be responsible for documenting each ~~DMAT~~ PHRT member’s completion of required training.

113.5(4) *Deployment and standdown.*

a. ~~DMATs~~ PHRTs shall prepare to deploy within two to four hours of notification by the department. ~~DMATs~~ PHRTs shall not self-deploy and shall not be covered by the provisions of Iowa Code section 135.143 and this chapter if ~~self-deployed~~ the PHRTs self-deploy or are deployed by another agency or entity.

b. On-call team schedules shall be established and distributed by the department and shall be followed by the ~~DMATs~~ PHRTs and sponsor agencies.

c. Deployment and standdown procedures are outlined in the Iowa ~~DMAT~~ Volunteer Public Health Response Team Operational Procedures Manual and shall be followed by all ~~DMAT~~ PHRT members.

ITEM 7. Rescind rule ~~641—113.6(135)~~.

ITEM 8. Renumber rules ~~641—113.7(135)~~ and ~~641—113.8(135)~~ as ~~641—113.6(135)~~ and ~~641—113.7(135)~~.